

A CHRISTIAN NEWSLETTER ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

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CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN CHURCH LEADERS FROM U.S.S.R. AND U.S.A. CONTINUED IN JUNE MEETING

Returning the visit of church leaders from the U.S.A. to church leaders in the U.S.S.R. in March under the sponsorship of the National Council of Churches, a deputation of churchmen from the U.S.S.R. visited in this country from June 2-13. They represented the Russian Orthodox Church, the Evangelical Christian Baptist Church, the Armenian Orthodox Church, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Esthonia.

The press in the U.S.A. gave wide coverage to the general aspects of this exchange visit. As service to readers of the Newsletter, brief coverage follows on papers presented in the conversations on peace and world order. This was one of the major subjects of the conversations.

Leading off the discussion on what the churches of the two countries are doing to promote peace, Metropolitan Nikolai, chairman of the Russian churchmen's delegation, made these points; he said: We Christians of the USSR believe we have taken the right course in seeking pacification among nations by every possible means. Based on Jesus Christ and church life, we seek the pacification of human souls, with love for God and neighbor. We seek constantly those things making for peace and justice. It is heartening to see so much unity on such an important issue. Responding with considered agreement to one of the points made by Dr. Walter W. Van Kirk of the National Council of Churches at the previous conversations in Moscow, Metropolitan Nikolai stated that peace is the by-product of truth, freedom, justice and righteousness. He went on to point out that these are the result of faith and that there must be confidence between nations, overcoming distrust. The Russian churches hold aloof, said he, from such things as politics. As to the United Nations, it is a school of instruction and intercourse; it is necessary to have every possible effort to support the UN. In the UN, said he, there is the moral difficulty of mistrust among nations. But the UN must be strengthened to halt the present arms race, to have international control of atomic energy, and to reduce all arms, this being done under the control of the UN. Concerning the underdeveloped areas of the world, he said that their churchmen believe that if some nations give help to less fortunate nations, thus can be solved problems of colonialism and dependence. He said these areas should have assistance, self-determination, and for nations not yet ready for independence, trusteeship under the UN. Noting a number of agreements between churchmen from the U.S.S.R. and the U.S.A., he stated that they are prepared to study any ways of uniting Christians for safeguarding peace.

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CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN CHURCH LEADERS FROM U.S.S.R. and U.S.A. CONTINUED IN JUNE (cont.)

The paper on what the churches of the U.S.A. are doing for peace was presented by Dr. Van Kirk. This was somewhat by way of a supplement to the comprehensive paper he had presented in Moscow, and also by way of response to Metropolitan Nikolai's presentation. Dr. Van Kirk said that the recent announcement of the U.S.S.R. to reduce its military forces by 1,200,000 is welcomed. However, he pointed out, that the nature of warfare has shifted toward atomic energy, hydrogen bombs and inter-continental ballistic missiles, thus diminishing the relative importance of manpower under arms. So there can be no real progress toward disarmament until nations accept international inspection and control. Within that framework, Dr. Van Kirk said, he believes the U.S. churches will support disarmament, the abandoning of nuclear weapons tests and the banning of nuclear weapons. He noted with encouragement the fact that 12 governments, including the U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R. have agreed on a revised draft statute on an international atomic-energy agency, to be related to the UN. Its basic purpose will be to speed peaceful developments of atomic energy. This proposal is to be considered in the UN in the autumn. On the subject of the elimination of the colonial system, Dr. Van Kirk indicated general concurrence with the statement of Metropolitan Nikolai, but he pointed out that some nations do not have the freedom for which they are ready. He suggested that one way to build confidence would be for all the great powers to respect the right of all nations to self-government as in Asia and Africa. He said, however, that our Russian guests must also be told that in our churches there is widespread concern that the peoples of Lithuania, Latvia and Esthonia do not enjoy liberty and independence as they would if they were permitted to have free elections. He stated that the same may be said of other peoples of Eastern Europe. On the United Nations, Dr. Van Kirk noted that in March the churchmen in the U.S.S.R. had made no mention of the UN and welcomed their mention of it in these second conversations. He declared if the churches of the world could unite to support the efforts of the United Nations to resist aggression, to provide collective security, to create conditions making for justice and peace, to promote human rights, much would be accomplished. He reiterated that peace is more than the absence of war, that it is a way of life in which there is both a will to peace and ways to peace provided through conditions of justice and freedom.

While the lengthy discussion which followed these papers cannot be presented in the limited space of the Newsletter, it is hoped that the brief summary of the papers presented above may be of value to our readers at this time, and that it may serve as background for any future publication of these conversations. Much of the content of the conversations which took place in Russia in March, is given in detail in the new booklet described on page 8 of this issue, published by the National Council of Churches, titled, American Churchmen Visit the Soviet Union.

In the conversations on the churches and peace, there was discussion of some similarities and of certain points of essential agreement among the churches of the two countries in the quest for world peace in the framework of Christian faith, under God and under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. There was also frank facing and recognition of differences of positions, of orientation and tradition.

In the course of this discussion, Metropolitan Nikolai expressed the hope that these conversations would deepen mutual understanding. He said he believes that concord between churchmen of the two countries on fundamental issues of peace can be a significant factor for peace on earth.

On the whole range of subjects covered in these conversations, it was agreed at the close of this visit, that there should be a continuation of conversations from time to time between church leaders of the U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R., that there should be continuation of communications between them, and that there should be a continuing exchange of publications so that each might know and understand more fully the mind of the other.

EVENTS IN DISARMAMENT ISSUES ARE OF INTEREST TO CHURCHES, INCLUDING SENATE HEARINGS

Several events have occurred in recent weeks which have involved the churches in their concern for the reduction and regulation of armaments.

The deliberations of the United Nations Subcommittee on Disarmament in London were followed closely by church leaders. While there were no basic agreements reached by the representatives of the Western Powers and the Soviet Union, there was some further slight movement of positions toward each other.

A White House Disarmament Staff Briefing in Washington, D.C. June 4, reported to invited representatives of interested national organizations on the London Conference and discussed some future possibilities in this field. Representatives of the churches included Charles M. Smith of the Washington office and Kenneth L. Maxwell of the Department of International Affairs of the National Council of Churches. At this meeting Dr. Charles F. Boss, Jr., Executive Secretary of the Board of World Peace of the Methodist Church, proposed that the President call a White House Conference on Disarmament for Non-Governmental organizations. The briefing was conducted by five members of the White House Disarmament Staff including the Secretary for Disarmament, the Honorable Harold E. Stassen.

A hearing was held by the Subcommittee on Disarmament of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations on June 8 in Washington to receive testimony from national organizations and interested citizens. Testimony on behalf of the National Council of Churches was given by Dr. Maxwell, Associate Executive Director of the Department of International Affairs. It was based on positions taken in recent years by the National Council on the reduction and regulation of armaments. The chairman, Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (D., Minn.) exhibited particular interest in this testimony, asking numerous questions and stating in the record his high regard for the views of the churches; he declared that such testimony was expressing in a real way the voice of the people of the country and that one of the basic reasons for these hearings was to receive such expressions of public opinion as the churches can give.

Points made in the testimony in behalf of the National Council of Churches included the following: The Federal and National Council of Churches have maintained a basic, continuing concern through the years on disarmament and the related problems of atomic control. The National Council has taken the position that military establishments should ultimately be internationally controlled and be made subject to law under the community of nations. An acceptable system of armament control must be safeguarded by international inspection. The National Council strongly supports the idea that the regulation and reduction of armaments should be universal and by international agreement as anticipated in the UN Charter. The National Council holds that the crushing burden of arms should be lifted and funds thus be released for greatly enlarged programs of reconstruction and development, believing that such a peace offensive "would capture the imagination of the free peoples of the world, and would offer promise that conditions of poverty and social injustice upon which communism thrives, would be largely overcome." The National Council has supported President Eisenhower's proposal "for the pooling of fissionable materials in an international agency under the UN for peaceful use," and the responsible National Council officers have favored his proposal "for an exchange of military blueprints and for aerial reconnaissance as one step toward arms control." In supporting the establishment of an International Atomic Energy Agency within the framework of the UN, the recent agreements on this plan and the proposal to consider it at the UN this autumn are welcomed. The testimony quoted from a message sent to the U.S. Delegation to the UN in 1953 by the National Council of Churches:

"We believe our country should continue to strive for agreement respecting the international reduction and regulation of armaments, including atomic weapons. We recognize that, pending the acceptance by all nations of a trustworthy system by which all

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military weapons are subject to international agreement or placed under international control it is necessary that the United States maintain an adequate level of military strength. Our recognition of this fact, however, does not mean that we are ignorant of, or indifferent to, the dire consequences that may befall our own and other nations unless the present accelerated race in armaments can be checked. The failure of the great powers in the United Nations, thus far, to agree on any measure of disarmament should not be allowed to stop new and persistent efforts to achieve this end. On the contrary we believe it is urgent that the United States and other free nations make another attempt to break the disarmament impasse."

In conclusion and by way of perspective on disarmament and related problems the testimony declared: "Looking beyond the immediate situation respecting the arms race the National Council of Churches believes that the main hope of peace in this period lies in mustering the spiritual, moral, and material resources latent in our world and directing them toward positive goals of human welfare thereby helping to build bridges of understanding and fellowship among the peoples of the earth. The presupposition of this strategy is reliance primarily on the constructive power of spiritually creative resources, rather than on the destructive power of military weapons."

Some constituent communions of the National Council and other church-related organizations testified, including: Mrs. J. Warren Hastings for the Disciples of Christ; Samuel Marble, President of Wilmington College, Ohio, for the American Friends Service Committee; Professor Kenneth Boulding of Ann Arbor, Mich., for the Friends Committee on National Legislation; John H. Eberly for the Church of the Brethren; Dr. Charles F. Boss, Jr. for the Board of World Peace, the Methodist Church.

The Senate Disarmament Subcommittee held hearings at Minneapolis on June 16 where churches again testified. This was part of a series of hearings held in different parts of the country in strategic centers of expert opinion. Testimony was heard from experts in the universities and colleges in the area, including an atomic scientist from the University of Chicago. In behalf of the Minnesota Council of Churches, their Committee on World Peace of their Department of Social Relations offered testimony. It was based on a statement of policy previously adopted by the Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Council, and it was developed by the World Peace Committee through a series of small group meetings, under the Chairman, Rev. Charles M. Sexton. The testimony was given by Dr. Charles J. Turck, Committee member, President of Macalester College, a leading Presbyterian layman. The Executive Secretary of the Minnesota Council is Hayden L. Stright; the Associate Executive Secretary responsible for this activity is John Wilson.

Other members of the Committee gave testimony as individuals on a voluntary basis: Dr. Mulford Q. Sibley, Professor of Political Science at the University of Minnesota; Dr. Russell Cooper, Assistant Dean of the College of Science, Literature and the Arts, of the University; Mrs. Harold Roupp, active in United Church Women and a founder of the Children's Plea for Peace; Rev. Richard Newby, Pastor of the Friends meeting in Minneapolis.

Following the hearing, Senator Humphrey was a guest at dinner of the Committee on World Peace of the Minnesota Council of Churches. This afforded opportunity for informal conversations on other crucial issues in international affairs.

Senator Alexander Wiley (R., Wis.) was also present for this hearing in Minneapolis.

A few copies of the testimony of the National Council of Churches is available free to those who write in for it to the Department of International Affairs.

CONGRESSIONAL ACTION IN PROCESS ON SOME ISSUES, AWAITED ON OTHERS, IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Nearing the close of this session, Congress is working on some crucial bills in international issues, but has not yet taken up others. The situation at time of writing, which will be changed on some bills by the time the Newsletter reaches our readers, is this:

Foreign Aid - HR 11356 (Mutual Security Program) - Authorization passed by House with cut of \$1 billion from military and \$100 million from economic aid from President's original request for \$4,900,000,000. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee voted to restore \$703,000,000; to have \$243 million of development assistance funds only in loans, later reconsidering recommended authority for up to 25 per cent of it as grants; to increase by \$1 million the present \$2 million ceiling on U.S. contribution to the UN FAO but not to exceed 31½ per cent of FAO's budget; to transfer \$11 million to the State Department to supplement a \$20 million appropriation for educational exchange. After passing the Senate, the bill must pass the appropriations committees and votes of both houses of Congress before becoming law. Appropriations in foreign aid have usually been smaller than authorization. The long-term commitment feature asked by the President has been voted down.

The above is simply for continuation of present levels of foreign aid. It does not pretend to begin to come to grips with the whole new dimension of foreign economic funds called for in the new international situation with the communist economic competition and penetration. Before this illness the President suggested the possibility of a Commission to study the new challenge. He also announced a conference of specialists on person-to-person contacts internationally, which should prove of value, but again does not deal with the basic economic facts of life.

Organization for Trade Cooperation - HR 5550 - Still awaiting House action.

Immigration and Naturalization - Several bills, none fundamental, awaiting action.

Refugee Relief Act - Several changes proposed; no action.

BACKGROUND PUBLICATION ON FOREIGN ECONOMIC POLICY PUBLISHED ON BASIS OF CONFERENCE

The Forward Look in Technical and Economic Development is a report of a Workshop in Washington, D. C., April 10, 1956. 81 national organizations cooperated, including staff members of the National Council of Churches; Dr. Earl F. Adams of the Washington Office was among planners. There are excerpts of addresses by Francis Wilcox, Assistant Secretary of State; J. D. Zellerbach, Chairman, Board of Trustees, Committee for Economic Development; James B. Carey, President, International Union of Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers, AFL-CIO; Robert R. Nathan, Consulting Economist; Harold Van B. Cleveland, Economist, CED; David Owen, Executive Chairman, Technical Assistance Board, UN; Ambassador G. L. Mehta of India. 32 pages. Free to schools and libraries. Cost: 5 copies \$1.00, postpaid. Order from National Conference on International Economic and Social Development, 1025 Vermont Ave., N. W., Washington 5, D. C.

This Newsletter is published 10 times per year, September-June, by the Department of International Affairs of the National Council of Churches; the Honorable Ernest A. Gross, Chairman; Dr. Walter W. Van Kirk, Executive Director; Dr. Kenneth L. Maxwell, Associate Executive Director, editor of Newsletter. Prepared by the staff to provide specialized information for education and action on international issues. Viewpoints expressed should be regarded as not necessarily the policy of the Department or of the National Council. It is designed for denominational and council secretaries; national, state and local committees; ministers, laymen, women, and youth who wish to keep up with the work of the churches in this field. Subscription: \$1.00 per year.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING? Reports of Communions, Councils, and Churches

PRESBYTERIANS PROVE RESOLUTIONS CAN BE FRONT-PAGE AND FULL-PAGE NEWS

A Report by the Standing Committee on Social Education and Action of the 168th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A., with a cutting edge on crucial issues, was approved by an overwhelming vote of the 910 commissioners in behalf of over 2,700,000 Presbyterians. This action May 30 in Philadelphia was reported in a front-page article and in a full page giving complete text in the New York Times.

Under the theme, "The Things that Make for Peace," sections dealt with International Affairs, Racial and Cultural Relations, Economic Life, Education, Citizenship, Civil Liberties, and Other Areas of Social Concern. About the section on race, the headlined element in the Times news story, George Dugan wrote: "It was believed to be one of the strongest and most specific proposals on race relations ever made by a major Protestant body."

In the section on International Affairs, the report dealt with several specifics:

On the United Nations: It urged continuing support; acclaimed the admission of 16 new member states as a step toward universality; called on our Government to recognize the urgency of wholehearted participation in UN agencies and programs.

On Disarmament: "Believing that a just and durable peace requires the reduction of all types of weapons concurrently, with effective means of inspection and control, the 168th General Assembly urges our Government to continue to initiate negotiations for the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, pursuing such negotiations vigorously within the collective security concepts of the United Nations, when possible, and to continue to make unremitting efforts to find a solution to the present deadlock over methods."

On Technical Assistance and Economic Aid: Citing the larger context in which the self-interest of foreign policy must be seen, recognizing the continuing need to stress economic rather than military aid to underdeveloped areas, conscious of communist economic aid as a political weapon, and expressing confidence in exchanges of persons in building world community through mutual understanding, they voted these specifics: Urging "our Government (1) to give assurance of appropriation of funds for economic aid on a long term basis, (2) to review and debate foreign aid proposals without acrimony and partisan maneuvering so that decisions will be made on the basis of human welfare and (3) to make substantial increases in programs for the distribution of agricultural surpluses through agencies such as Care, Crop, and Church World Service."

On International Trade: "Recognizing that our failure to participate in the Organization for Trade Cooperation may be interpreted by other nations as a withdrawal from the general international trade policies our Government has been pursuing since 1947;

"Being aware that O.T.C. does not involve any new authority to reduce tariff, does not give any additional powers to the President, does not affect the authority of Congress to legislate, does not commit Congress to any future legislation, and allows the United States to retain a veto over any action which affects United States Policy;

"The 168th General Assembly urges our Congress to approve participation in OTC as a means for administering general trade agreements and for honoring the procedures which we have already agreed to in GATT to expand trade throughout the free world."

On War and Peace: "Believing that the nature and practice of modern warfare is contrary to the spirit and teachings of Jesus Christ, the 168th General Assembly instructs our Department of Social Education and Action to redouble its efforts to so educate our church; urges Christians to give renewed emphasis to the subject of the report, 'The Things that Make for Peace,' restudying the principles and methods of modern warfare in the light of our Christian faith, and the guidance of the Bible and the Holy Spirit, so that we will act as God would have us in this matter of life and death for our civilization."

"CHRISTIANS VIEW WORLD PEACE" IN CONFERENCE ON WORLD ORDER, REDLANDS, CALIFORNIA

An unusual follow-up featured a Conference on World Order and Peace held recently in Redlands, California: Findings were written up in a succinct Report sent with a brief Memorandum to key groups and people. The Memo said: "We sincerely hope that this material will have some value to you who receive it, because you are helping to formulate public opinion as well as policies which have significance to present activities and long range planning." Among those to whom they sent the findings were: The Secretary of State; the Assistant to the President on Disarmament; U. S. Senators William F. Knowland and Thomas H. Kuchel; Representative Harry R. Sheppard, 27th District of California; Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the U.S. Senate; Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House; The U.S. Mission to the United Nations; Denominational Committees on Social Concerns; Member Churches and Cooperating Organizations; Local, State and National Councils of Churches; U. S. Conference for the World Council of Churches. This technique may prove of value to other councils and church groups in conferences on world order.

The Council of Churches of Redlands, the United Church Women, and the Public Affairs Committee of the Y.W.C.A., sponsored the Conference. Delegates were chosen by various churches and concerned organizations of the community. Careful planning over five months helped assure success of the event.

Under the theme, "Christians View World Peace," the Conference featured seminar groups and reports, following two addresses: "Today's World," by Dr. Henry Dittmar, Professor of History at the University of Redlands and "Religion and World Peace" by Dr. Earl Cranston, Dean of the School of Religion of the University of Southern California. Seminar subjects: I. Disarmament -- Are We Ready for It? II. Will Regional Alliances Assure Peace? III. What is Coexistence? IV. Can the United Nations Be Made More Effective? V. Foreign Aid -- What Kind and How Much?

The pattern of the Conference was this: Luncheon, with roll call of delegates, and the addresses; the seminars; a period to study literature on world understanding and to view the film "Which Way to Peace;" a discussion between Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam and Dr. H. H. Crane; buffet supper; group reports in plenary session; concluding discussion on "Our Next Steps;" with a clearing-house of events in the community by groups in this field. Other such conferences were proposed with Congressmen participating. Study of resolutions on peace by various denominations was recommended; copies were available at the meeting.

Leaders included: Rev. Oscar Sedam, Executive Secretary, Council of Churches, Redlands; Professors Lester Phillips and William Klausner; Mrs. Robert McCandliss, coordinator; Mrs. Louis Mertins, reporter; five seminar Leaders, five Recorders; Rev. Frank M. Toothaker, First Methodist Church and Rev. Frank B. Fagerburg, Baptist Church.

ACTIVE PROGRAM IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS CONTINUES IN ST. JOSEPH COUNTY COUNCIL, INDIANA

A particular emphasis of the most recent Institute on Education for World Peace in the St. Joseph County Council of Churches was the participation of public opinion makers. Press, television and radio people participated with those from community organizations and churches. The World Friendship Department, Mrs. P. D. Pointer, Chairman, sponsored it. Later, a Sunday afternoon and evening Conference was held on a local church basis, in Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, including an address, a presentation of materials, a denominational statement on peace, discussion groups, reports, summary and closing challenge. The Council also inaugurated a Community Ambassador project, under which Susanne Bartok will go to live with a German family in Minden, Germany. The Council's Executive Secretary, Dr. Grover L. Hartman, also served as special reporter for the South Bend Tribune on the Russian churchmen's visit to this country.

RESOURCES: USA and USSR Churchmen; Foreign Policy; Disarmament

BROCHURE: American Churchmen Visit the Soviet Union, Who Went and What Was Achieved. This is the official story with documentation of the visit of leaders of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. with church leaders in the U.S.S.R. in March, which was the basis for the return visit by their deputation in June. In large format, well illustrated with meaningful pictures, this booklet contains: An interpretation of the visit, a report of the conversations, and texts of the papers presented to the churchmen in Russia. Some section headings: "An Historic Precedent -- Why," "The Conversations," "...Armenians...Lutherans...and Baptists, Too," "Peace: Correcting the Record --," "The Visit was Profitable: Both Sides Spoke Frankly," "A Church Goal -- Peace with Justice," and "We Do not Interfere in Political Acts -- A Reply by Metropolitan Nicolai," "Freedom, Can Our Churches Fulfill Their Mission?" "The Christian Faith and Other Religions," "Trends: Theological Thought and Education in the U.S.," "Christian Literature: Indispensable," "Modern Science and Religion." 24 pages. 25¢ per copy in quantities of 100 or more; single copies, 50¢ each. Order from the Office of Publication and Distribution, National Council of Churches, 297 Fourth Ave., New York 10, N.Y.

BOOKLET: U.S. Foreign Policy 1945-1955, by Paul H. Nitze, Headline Series, Number 116. Introductory note: "During the turbulent and precedent-shattering decade 1945-1955 when the United States, which had favored neutrality on the eve of World War II, rapidly assumed vast responsibilities around the globe, events came so thick and fast that the American citizen had little opportunity to see them in perspective. Now that the 'cold war' appears to have shifted from the military front to the economic and cultural fronts, it is a matter of vital necessity to review where we started from, the roads we traveled to get where we are today, and the goals we may seek tomorrow." Chapters: "Efforts to Make the Peace," "Acceptance of World Responsibilities," "Military Security in the Atomic Age," "The Uncommitted Peoples," "The Years Ahead." The author has held numerous key positions in the Department of State, including Director of the Policy Planning Staff, from 1949 to 1953. Discussion Guide, reading references, visual aids. Editor: Vera Micheles Dean. 62 pages. 35¢. Foreign Policy Association, Inc., 345 E. 46th Street, New York 17, N. Y.

PAMPHLET: Is Disarmament Possible? by Jerome H. Spingarn. Public Affairs Pamphlet, No. 235. This was prepared in cooperation with the Institute for International Order by the Public Affairs Committee, Maxwell S. Stewart, Editor. This study by a Washington, D.C., lawyer and author of numerous articles gives a quick survey of developments, proposals and problems in this field during the last decade, then sections on: "How to Disarm," "Atoms for Peace," and "The Public Must Lead." Brief Bibliography. 28 pages. 25¢ per copy; quantity rates of 10 or more at 20¢ each, 100 or more at 18¢, 500 at 15¢. Order from Public Affairs Pamphlets, 22 East 38th Street, New York 16, N.Y.

ANOTHER LETTER TO THE EDITOR: Following the example of our friend, Mrs. Dudley E. Brown, leading church woman from Dallas, this month UCW Christian World Relations sent us addressed labels for sample Newsletters to be sent to key leaders across the USA! If a subscriber, will you share our publication with friends and co-workers? If not a subscriber, will you join our growing list -- doubled during past year -- by sending your order now, enclosing your dollar for this periodic briefing?

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